

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the application, and for indicating that claims 27-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claims 25-27. Applicant has amended claims 28 and 30 to correct their dependencies. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 19, and 42-44, as discussed further herein. Support for the amendment of claims 1, 19, and 42-44 may be found throughout the specification, and the amendment of claims 1, 19, and 42-44 does not constitute the addition of new matter. With the amendment, claims 1-24 and 28-45 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,363,480 to Perlman.

Applicant has canceled Applicant's dependent claims 25, 26, and 27, and Applicant has amended Applicant's independent claim 19 to include the limitations formerly present in Applicant's now-canceled dependent claims 25-27. As the Examiner has indicated that Applicant's former dependent claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and as Applicant has so amended claim 27 into the base claim (19) along with intervening claims 25 and 26, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's amended independent claim 19 is thus allowable over Perlman.

Applicant has similarly amended Applicant's independent claims 1 and 42-44 to include those limitations found in Applicant's allowable amended independent claim 19. Therefore, for at least the reasons given above with regards to Applicant's allowable independent claim 19, Applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 42-44 are themselves allowable over Perlman.

Applicant's dependent claims 2-18, 45, 20-24, and 28-41 depend from, respectively, Applicant's allowable amended independent claims 1 and 19. Therefore,

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for at least the reasons given above with regards to Applicant's allowable amended independent claims 1 and 19, Applicant's dependent claims 2-18, 45, 20-24, and 28-41 are themselves allowable over Perlman.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes this Amendment and Response to be fully responsive to the present Office Action. Thus, based on the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is any fee occasioned by this response that is not paid, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

Should the enclosed papers or fees be considered incomplete, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office contact the undersigned collect at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned Attorney if any issues are deemed to remain prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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